




houses in conical shape, some black & great
spreading sails, others white of tree-picture-book
pattern, & again like a stiff, tall woman holding
up her arms with some round toy!  Then the
study of ricks: very round & smooth, like sugar-balls
with lids that would take off - All so nicely thatched.
Then the centre of the lid gradually grew into a neat
little spire , & as we drew near Scotland, the thatch
was held on by crossed ropes, increasing from one or
two bands to a perfect net work about Edinburgh.
And such numbers! One can understand why rick-
burning should be so severely punished, for one count-
ed from half a dozen to at length, in one yard, over
30 - After a long one in the centre, & the round ones all
around - A fire would cut off a large portion of a
winter's supply of grain - They were ploughing &
rolling the land, - Several times we saw steam
ploughs, & sometimes draining & ditching - If I
were asked the most characteristic feature of
England, I should say the perfect cultivation every
where - Never what we call a waste bit of wildness,
except perhaps in some great park; but then fields
after fields, some very large, so smooth, & green, or
brown, with the nicely dressed soil looking like
fardew land at home. Every pasture land trim & neat.
Done & all from 

40

Kew - Oct. 20th. '69

My dear sister,

We reached Durham after dark
& could only see that it was a long drive to
the inn, & down hill & uphill & down hill a-
gain - It was one of the nicest hotels we got
into on our journey, rejoicing in the name of "the
Three Tuns!" - Very plain looking outside, as it
were the ground of two or three common houses run
into one, & the various levels inside were jumping &
stepping here down, & there two up, & then down again;
I know I counted 5 different levels between our par-
lor & the first room on the story above! Generally
one can't say much for English hotels - Small,
dark, dingy bed-rooms, & parlours with lots of finery
of small pieces, but dreary outlooks, & hard seats -
Why the carpets must be always so neatly & the bed-
spreads & towels a "dark white" as you used to call
light grey, I cannot see; for though climate is some-
thing & coal smoke a great deal, it is not so in
private houses, there is some approach to white -
Then charges are enormous - We travelled almost
always 2nd. Class on the rail-ways, & tried to avoid
extras, but it was a great deal more than on the

continent - And it did seem a shame the 2nd
Class carriages should be so dirty - One did
not expect stuffing or carpets, but it was an of-
fence sometimes to look at the paint! In Scot-
land we found them much neater -

When we saw Durham by daylight we ap-
preciated the valley it runs up & down. The
Cathedral has a most superb site on a steep
bank, overhanging the river & wooded, the river
making a great bend so as to make it almost an
island - And all that part of the town has castles
& walls & picturesque buildings - The ^{of the Cathedral} style is Nor-
man, or round arches, but the outside is more
grand than beautiful, & greatly from its position -
The interior is also very grand & imposing, the
round arches & heavy columns have a solid, massive
effect, & seem almost Egyptian with carved orna-
ment running over them - It curiously has no Wes-
tern entrance, for that is all covered by a strange
little chapel church, called the Gallilee porch -
C. & K. saw it next morn. & said it was very interest-
ing - Some of the old cathedrals have these porches,
where the monks used to meet their friends, & in
some where the women were allowed only to come
so far - St. Cuthbert, to whom Durham was dedicated,

was a very stern misogynist, & the women might
only come to this porch & never set foot within
the church or the monastic buildings! - The others
went to morn. service & heard a new dean read
himself in, that is read all the service & only the
responses chanted - Ordinarily all the service in
a cathedral would be intoned ~~or~~ chanted & sung
in the choir, but there was no psalm, only prayers, & a
fine choir of chorister boys & men - And one could
see down the long nave, & the light streaming through
the fine west window - After service we walked
down into the bridge & got the fine ~~best~~ view - But
the streets were very narrow, horribly dirty, & it
seemed as if the dirt & the damp from the river must
be very unwholesome! - Dirty children abounded -
The next morn. we were off at 10 for Edinburgh,
reaching there at 3 - Coming north so through
England, it was quite remarkable the variety
of country & surface & cultivation we saw -
Northshire gentle hills & fine ^{trees} woods, Derby-
shire more picturesque with deep valleys &
wooded streams - Lincolnshire so flat! It made
me think of Holland, with canals sometimes
higher than the land, & formal rows of trees, & thick
crops of brightest red, & tall windmills like lights